

On Monday, June 7, an agreement between the Illinois Department of Military Affairs and Heartland Community College for the construction of a federally-supported Illinois Army National Guard facility was announced by Governor Pat Quinn's office.

The construction of the facility, which will be located in the 11th Congressional District, was promoted by Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson (IL-11), who appealed in May to both Governor Quinn and Adjutant General William Enyart on behalf of the Heartland Community College location.

"Upon hearing that Heartland Community College was an option for this facility's placement, I impressed upon both Governor Quinn and General Enyart that Heartland would be both a logistically and fiscally responsible location," said Halvorson.

An estimated 150 construction positions and 22 full time positions will be supported by the \$16.51 million project, which will be funded mainly through the federal government, with a state contribution of \$4.4 million. The project will begin construction in January 2012, and is expected to be completed within two years. After construction, the facility is expected to bring \$2.7 million in federal funds to the Bloomington-Normal area each year.

"I'm so pleased they both agreed and that 22 new permanent positions and an estimated 150 construction jobs will be located here in Normal," Halvorson said.

"I'm also very pleased the IL National Guard will have a quality facility centrally located in the state so they are prepared to respond to any disaster in a quick and efficient manner," said Halvorson.

"The recent storms that have impacted my district serve to highlight the importance of a well-equipped and well-prepared force of first-responders, which this new facility will supply. This is an important project both for our safety, our state, and our local community, and I am proud to have supported its placement here in Normal."